



THE SENATE  
STATE OF MICHIGAN

**SEAN McCANN**

20TH DISTRICT

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Mr. David Fox  
Eagle Creek Renewable Energy  
116 N State Street  
Neshkoro, WI 54960

April 7, 2021

Dear Mr. Fox:

We, the undersigned, represent the Kalamazoo River region impacted by the Morrow Dam spillway gate failure. We continue to hear constituent concerns regarding the condition of sediment buildup in the Kalamazoo River as a result of Eagle Creek Renewable Energy's activities at the Morrow Dam.

The Kalamazoo River has been in a state of ongoing, man-made ecological emergency for over a year now. We have already lost one season of fish & mussel recruitment and are in danger of losing another in 2021. The river's plant & animal species' fragile habitat is not rebounding in the areas that have already been impacted, and the long-term impacts grow more serious the longer your cleanup process takes. Greater mitigation measures are needed downstream to capture the sediment before it spreads.

On February 26, 2021, ECRE's subsidiary STS Hydropower announced in a news release that dredging activities would begin by March 1<sup>st</sup> at the oxbow near South Wenke Park. We are glad to see that some mitigation and cleanup activities are finally underway. However, we and members of the Kalamazoo community are concerned that the measures being taken now have waited too long, need to be expanded upon, and with more urgency.

In that February 26<sup>th</sup> news release, STS Hydropower said "STS is working with EGLE and the USEPA to investigate other sediment deposits downstream of Morrow Lake Dam and concurrently developing plans for additional sediment removal projects. STS expects to share these plans with agencies in early March."

While we are encouraged to hear that additional plans are in the works, to our knowledge EGLE and USEPA have not received them at this time. With spring upon us, time is of the essence. We know from your Phase 1 report that there are additional access points to the river where you could be conducting simultaneous dredging activities now. There are hundreds of thousands of cubic yards of sediment deposited in the river that do not belong there. Any effort that stops at removing only 3,000 cubic yards of the most easily accessible material is inadequate and will not be accepted by our community.

We and the constituents we represent want to know your plan for immediate, expanded dredging activities and additional measures to mitigate downstream spread.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Senator Sean McCann  
20<sup>th</sup> District



Representative Julie M. Rogers  
60<sup>th</sup> District

CC via email:

Ms. Melissa Sonneleitner, STS

Ms. Jody Smet, STS

Mr. James Baker, City of Kalamazoo

Mr. Chris Praedel, Kalamazoo City Commissioner

Mr. Jack Urban, Kalamazoo City Commissioner

Ms. Tracy Hall, Chair, Kalamazoo County Commission

Ms. Nicole Beauchamp, Comstock Township Clerk

Mr. Jim Saric, EPA

Ms. Cheryl Vosburg, Kalamazoo River Watershed Council

Ms. Elizabeth Binoniemi-Smith, Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians

Mr. John Rodwan, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians

Mr. Jay Wesley, MDNR

Mr. Brian Gunderman, MDNR

Mr. Matt Diana, MDNR

Ms. Jessica Mistak, MDNR

Ms. Kesiree Thiamkeelakul, MDNR

Mr. Kyle Kruger, MDNR

Mr. Jerrod Sanders, EGLE

Ms. Amy Lounds, EGLE

Mr. Luis Saldivia, EGLE

Ms. Anne Garwood, EGLE

Mr. Derek Haroldson, EGLE

Mr. Luke Trumble, EGLE

Mr. John Bayha, EGLE

Mr. Chris Lantinga, EGLE

Mr. Dan Peabody, EGLE

Mr. David O'Donnell, EGLE

Mr. Dan Yordanich, EGLE

Ms. Bree Bennett, EGLE